-----

Title: House of the Eagle

Author:

-----

For many years the Sentry Knights kept vigiliant watch over the dungeons of the land, a task made vital by the constant resurgence of the monster threat. Over time they grew into more than a Knightly Order and became teachers as well as fighters. Children would often be sent to them at a young age to be trained in the ways of war and fostered in the ways of learning. Unforunately this noble purpose brought with it the seeds of its own downfall. The Knights grew so well versed in combat that many outside forgot the dangers they stopped. Discontent with the money they felt the Sentries were hoarding, there was a popular movement to close them down. Knights were spurned, squires assaulted, and property was burned. Still the sentries persisted for many years, knowing their duty and seeing what would happen if they failed. Although bravery was on their side, time was not.

With one hundred years, the once-grande ORder had dwindled to only a handful of old men watching their mission fail. Monsters began slipping out from caves and warrens, attacking small hamlets and villages.

The villagers blamed the Sentries for their failure, refusing to see the error of their own ways.

One last time the Knights were called on to fight. A scout informed their Lord Commander that a major force of brigands was marching towards Britain in the hopes of plunder. The people and the guard would be caught unawares in their beds and slaughtered. Taking swift action, the Commander, who was now almost eighty, rallied his troops and positioned them in the only mountain pass leading down to the city. They would not have to wait long, as the brigands were hard on their heels. Three times the Order was attacked, and three times they repulsed the invaders.

On the fourth assault, the Lord Commander sent one last runner to Britain with a message. The contents of this letter have been lost to us, but what happened next was recorded in some detail. A contingent of militia was rapidly dispatched to relieve the Knights. When they arrived, all they found were boulders.

It is believed that the Order had placed men on either side of the pass and had destabilized the rock face in preparation for this day. As it became obvious they could no longer hold, a signal was given and a rockslide was forced. After things had settled, the four men who had been on either side eradicated the

remaining brigands though they all died in the attempt.

Only the Knight, youngest of them at the age of fourty, who had been sent to Britain lived past that day. In memory of those who fell and to continue their duties, Aasin Winlor, the Last Knight, founded a new House. This House of the Eagle was so named because of the wide and clear vision of the future the members of the Sentry Order had, just as the eagle has of its prey, and their swift action to destroy the threats, just as an eagle swoops to the kill.